

Literacy B.C. Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 4

July 1991

World Literacy Day September 8

The Provincial Public Awareness Campaign committee is working hard to make World Literacy Day, September 8th, a big success. The committee is arranging media coverage that will bring attention to this special day, and will announce various events taking place across the province in September.

To help you, Literacy B.C. has prepared an information kit for anyone interested in

planning events to raise awareness about literacy. The kits include: ideas for events, fact sheets, hints for media coverage and a list of resource information. These kits will be mailed to literacy groups by Aug. 7.

If you are planning any events during September, please let us know by August 30. You can call us at 687-5077 or send a fax at 684-8520.

LITERACY B.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UPDATE: On June 21 and 22, over 150 people from across B.C. gathered at the Executive Inn in Richmond to attend this conference.

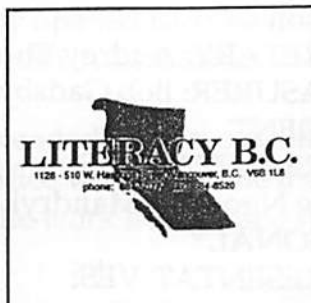
Everyone found the workshops and forums very worthwhile and many important issues were developed which will help shape the work of Literacy B.C. in the next year. A full report on the conference will be available at the end of August and mailed to all the people who attended the conference. Anyone else who is interested in having this report can call the Literacy B.C. office at 687-5077.

Literacy B.C. would like to thank everyone who came to the conference and all the

corporate sponsors whose generous donations helped to make the conference such a success.

WINNER IS CHOSEN!

Literacy B.C. is pleased to announce that LINDA GRANADE, of the Invergarry Learning Centre, was the winner of the Literacy B.C. logo contest. Linda was presented with her prize at the Literacy B.C. Annual General Meeting on June 22nd. Thank you to everyone who sent in entries.



the news from across BC

PROJECT LITERACY PRINCE GEORGE

Contact: Sylvia Cooper
561-1873

A Literacy Workshop was held on April 25th for professionals who deal with clients with limited literacy skills. Participants were introduced to literacy issues and shown how to revise materials to make them more accessible to everyone.

A group of members gathered at the College of New Caledonia on May 11th to view "Literacy Alive," which was brought in by the local cable company. A lively discussion took place between the morning and afternoon segments.

The College of New Caledonia's fifth annual LEARNERS EVENT took place on May 9th. Over 100 students, some from outlying areas, attended the event which included workshops in such areas as nutrition, drug and alcohol abuse, storytelling, and parenting.

A LEARNERS GROUP is being formed in this area. Initial meetings were held before the end of

the school term, and a core group is ready to get busy in the fall. Clyde French is the contact person. Call 564-5763.

The VALT (Volunteer Adult Literacy Training) program has had a busy and productive year. There is presently a full program of 30 learner-tutor pairs, as well as two small groups and a wait list of over 60 people wanting to be trained as tutors. Members hope that a VALT-type tutor program will be extended into the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre in the fall.

PROJECT LITERACY TERRACE

Contact: Nat Purcell
635-9119

A small grant from the Terrace Multicultural Association has helped start an ESL class for new immigrants who are low-literate in their first language, at The Reading Place, Project Literacy Terrace's downtown learning centre. Seven

LITERACY B.C. ANNOUNCES THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1991-1992

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the news from across BC

students are enrolled for six hours each week. Each student pays \$2.00 per hour for tutor instruction and materials.

Project Literacy Terrace is increasing its program to include the design of workplace literacy and language programs. These programs will be funded by the CEIC Delivery Assistance Option and have the support of local employers and employees. There will be an information meeting on August 27 at The Reading Place, 4722 Lakelse Avenue, at 7:30 p.m., for anyone interested in tutor training.

For more information, call 635-9119.

PROJECT LITERACY HOUSTON

Contact: Sandi Lavallie
845-7266

On June 17, 1991, Project Literacy Houston and its community partners hosted an

information meeting to introduce their vision for a learning centre for Houston.

They hope to develop a community-based Learning Centre for Houston. The proposal was developed to address the fact that 38% of the population in Houston have low literacy skills.

The meeting was attended by representatives the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, Ministry of Development, Trade and Tourism, Northwest Community College, CEIC, labour (IWA), business (Northwood, Houston Forest Products, Equity Silver Mines), the local school district and local government.

The proposal was very well received and the steering committee is now working on securing core funding to begin the project.

The learning centre will be a model that could be used in other single-resource-based communities.

Who We are

Literacy BC, founded in March 1990, is a coalition of people and groups concerned with promoting literacy in B.C.

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by the Ministry of Multiculturalism & Citizenship, National Literacy Secretariat, and by donations.

Literacy BC welcomes your news and comments by phone, mail or the Adult Literacy Contact Centre's fax, # 684-8520.

We do reserve the right to edit all submissions. This newsletter will be published bi-monthly.

LITERACY NANAIMO

Contact: Carolyn McWhinnie
754-8988

On May 15, 1991, the Nanaimo Literacy Association officially opened their new downtown centre at 201 Albert Street.

Over 100 people attended and an official from the mayor's office welcomed the literacy office and praised the work being done by literacy workers.

Continued on page 4

the news from across BC

In June, a group from the Governor-General's Canadian Study Conference visited the Nanaimo literacy office, Malaspina College, and spoke with literacy students.

Literacy Nanaimo is planning several public awareness events during September as part of their World Literacy Day

PROJECT LITERACY VICTORIA

Contact: Charlotte Bowie
381-3755

On June 26, a General Meeting was held and

members adopted a revised constitution and the new bylaws.

Recently Board and Staff members attended a strategic planning workshop to develop future plans for PLV.

One of the PLV learners is doing some research to find out what would help learners to become involved in literacy programs. From this research she hopes to find corporate sponsorship for an Adopt a Learner program. The volunteer tutor program The learners Network will continue through the summer with 47 active learner-tutor pairs.

FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT B.C.

In Kamloops, Cariboo College is developing a program called BAKE ME AN ALLIGATOR PIE. The goal of this program is to involve parents in learning the importance of and skills for reading to children.

The sessions, to be set up in three different locations in the Cariboo College district, will be small and low-key, featuring practical advice for parents in creating positive reading experiences for children.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please call Susie Safford at Cariboo College, Kamloops at 828-5292.

READ CANADA is a national program organized by Frontier College to encourage the organization of Reading Circles at schools, community centres, homes or anywhere a group can get together. READ CANADA provides training for leaders and volunteers, donates books for the Circle and for participants to take home, and helps in the initial organization of a Circle. Currently there are five Reading Circles in the Lower Mainland. FOR MORE

INFORMATION, call Caroline Low, Vancouver at 683-5557.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES offer a number of programs and services for parents who may be unsure of reading to their children. Most branches offer "story times" where parents can bring their children to hear stories read by the librarian. Librarians are also happy to recommend appropriate books for different age levels. The Vancouver Public Library has even produced a video for parents on reading to their children. FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact your public library.

HOUSTON CONFERENCE DELAYED

THE NEXT STEP: A NORTHERN CONFERENCE ON BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR LITERACY
This conference has been postponed to March 26 - 28, 1992 in Houston, B.C.

